

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) An antimicrobial composition comprising
  - (1) a mixture of iodide anions and thiocyanate anions,
  - (2) periodic acid or a salt thereof, and
  - (3) at least one copolymer comprising as units
    - (a) 5 to 100 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer comprising nitrogen and/or phosphorous containing groups,
    - (b) 0 to 95% by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer comprising acidic groups,
    - (c) 0 to 75 % by weight of at least one further comonomer, and
    - (d) 0 to 5 % by weight of crosslinking comonomers andwherein there are at least two different units of (a).
2. (Original) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the amounts of the units of the copolymer are:
  - (a) 10 to 60 %,
  - (b) 20 to 70 %,
  - (c) 0 to 70 %, and
  - (d) 0 to 5 %.
3. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is a liquid composition.
4. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the liquid composition comprises a solvent and said solvent comprises at least 80% water.

5. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the concentrations of the components in the solution are  
0.01 to 100 mmol/l periodic acid or salts thereof,  
0.005 to 50 mmol/l iodide ions,  
0.005 to 50 mmol/l thiocyanate ions, and  
0.005 to 10 % by weight copolymer.

6. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises another biocidal active compound.

7. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the composition further comprises a surfactant or emulsifier and the liquid composition is an oil-in-water-emulsion or a surfactant based solution.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) A microbicide for skin antiseptics; antimicrobial soaps; suntans; disinfection of medical equipment; treatment of swimming pools, air-conditioning processes; sanitation of accomodation for man; chemical toilets; treatment of sewage/waste, hospital infectious waste and soil or other substances; laundry; disinfection of animal housing/stables/machinery/footwear, hatcheries, means of transport; fish farming; floors, walls, and equipment in food processing plants; or the manufacture of aseptic packaging material which comprises the composition as claimed in claim 1.

11. (Previously presented) An active component which comprises the composition as claimed in claim 1.

12. (Previously presented) The active component as claimed in claim 11, wherein the active component is used in deodorants, antibacterial skin washes, anti-acne preparations, anti-athletes

foot preparations, anti-dandruff preparations, dental preparations, impregnated materials, ophthalmic preparations or sterilants.

13. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the copolymer comprises as monomer (a) vinylimidazole and N-vinylpyrrolidone.

14. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial composition comprising

- (1) a mixture of iodide anions and thiocyanate anions,
- (2) periodic acid or a salt thereof, and
- (3) at least one copolymer comprising as units
  - (a) at least 5% by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer comprising nitrogen and/or phosphorous containing groups,
  - (b) 0 to 95 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer comprising acidic groups,
  - (c) up to 75 % by weight of at least one further comonomer that is different from (a) and (b) and is a monoethylenically unsaturated monomer selected from the group consisting of  
ethylene,  
propylene,  
vinylaromatic monomers,  
vinylalkohol or its esters,  
vinylpropionate,  
esters of acrylic acid,  
esters of methacrylic acid,  
alkylene oxide,  
1, $\omega$ -dialcohol [~~or~~] and  
cyclic ether and
- (d) 0 to 5 % by weight of crosslinking comonomers wherein component (c) is present.

15. (Previously presented) The antimicrobial composition according to claim 14, wherein the comonomer (c) is styrene, vinylacetate, vinylpropionate, ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, ethylene glycol, 1,3-propanediol, 1,4 butanediol or tetrahydrofuran.

16. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 14, wherein the amounts of the units of the copolymer are:

- (a) 10 to 60 %,
- (b) 20 to 70 %,
- (c) 0 to 70 %, and
- (d) 0 to 5 %.

17. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 14, wherein the composition is a liquid composition.

18. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 17, wherein the concentrations of the components in the solution are

0.01 to 100 mmol/l periodic acid or salts thereof,

0.005 to 50 mmol/l iodide ions,

0.005 to 50 mmol/l thiocyanate ions, and

0.005 to 10 % by weight copolymer.

19. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 14, wherein the composition further comprises another biocidal active compound.

20. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 17, wherein the composition further comprises a surfactant or emulsifier and the liquid composition is an oil-in-water-emulsion or a surfactant based solution.

21. (Previously presented) A microbicide for skin antiseptics; antimicrobial soaps; suntans; disinfection of medical equipment; treatment of swimming pools, air-conditioning processes; sanitation of accommodation for man; chemical toilets; treatment of sewage/waste, hospital infectious waste and soil or other substances; laundry; disinfection of animal

housing/stables/machinery/footwear, hatcheries, means of transport; fish farming; floors, walls, and equipment in food processing plants; or the manufacture of aseptic packaging material which comprises the composition as claimed in claim 14.

22. (Previously presented) An active component which comprises the composition as claimed in claim 14.

23. (Previously presented) The active component as claimed in claim 22, wherein the active component is used in deodorants, antibacterial skin washes, anti-acne preparations, anti-athletes foot preparations, anti-dandruff preparations, dental preparations, impregnated materials, ophthalmic preparations or sterilants.

24. (Previously presented) An antimicrobial composition comprising

- (1) a mixture of iodide anions and thiocyanate anions,
  - (2) periodic acid or a salt thereof, and
  - (3) at least one copolymer comprising as units
    - (a) at least 5% by weight of at least one polymer or monoethylenically unsaturated monomer comprising nitrogen and/or phosphorous containing groups which are selected from the group consisting of acrylamide, N-substituted H-acrylamide, nitrogen containing acrylic acid ester, N-vinylamide N-vinyl-N-methylformamide, N-vinylacetamide, N-vinyl-N-methylacetamide, N-vinyl-N-methylpropionamide, N-vinylpropionamide, N-vinylimidazole N-vinylbutyrolactam, N-vinylcaprolactam, N-vinylvalerolactam and N-vinylaurolactam.
    - (b) 0 to 95 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer comprising acidic groups,
    - (c) 0 to 75 % by weight of at least one further comonomer,
- and
- (d) 0 to 5 % by weight of crosslinking comonomers.

25. (Previously presented) The antimicrobial composition according to claim 24, wherein the comonomer (a) is dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate, N-vinylformamide, N-vinyl-N-methylformamide, N-vinylacetamide, N-vinyl-N-methylacetamide, N-vinyl-N-methylpropionamide, N-vinylpropionamide, N-vinylimidazole N-vinylbutyrolactam, N-vinylcaprolactam, N-vinylvalerolactam or N-vinyl-lauro-lactam.

26. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 24, wherein the amounts of the units of the copolymer are:

- (a) 10 to 60 %,
- (b) 20 to 70 %,
- (c) 0 to 70 %, and
- (d) 0 to 5 %.

27. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 24, wherein the composition is a liquid composition.

28. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 27, wherein the concentrations of the components in the solution are

0.01 to 100 mmol/l periodic acid or salts thereof,

0.005 to 50 mmol/l iodide ions,

0.005 to 50 mmol/l thiocyanate ions, and

0.005 to 10 % by weight polymer or copolymer.

29. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 24, wherein the composition further comprises another biocidal active compound.

30. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 27, wherein the composition further comprises a surfactant or emulsifier and the liquid composition is an oil-in-water-emulsion or a surfactant based solution.

31. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 24, wherein said copolymer further comprises N-vinylpyrrolidone.
32. (Previously presented) A microbicide for skin antiseptics; antimicrobial soaps; suntans; disinfection of medical equipment; treatment of swimming pools, air-conditioning processes; sanitation of accomodation for man; chemical toilets; treatment of sewage/waste, hospital infectious waste and soil or other substances; laundry; disinfection of animal housing/stables/machinery/footwear, hatcheries, means of transport; fish farming; floors, walls, and equipment in food processing plants; or the manufacture of aseptic packaging material which comprises the composition as claimed in claim 24.
33. (Previously presented) An active component which comprises the composition as claimed in claim 24.
34. (Previously presented) The active component as claimed in claim 33, wherein the active component is used in deodorants, antibacterial skin washes, anti-acne preparations, anti-athletes foot preparations, anti-dandruff preparations, dental preparations, impregnated materials, ophthalmic preparations or sterilants.
35. (Previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein unit b is at least one monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer comprising an acidic group selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, vinyl sulfonic acid, vinyl phosphonic acid or phosphorous acid monovinylester and phosphorous acid mono allylester.
36. (Previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 14, wherein unit b is at least one monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer comprising an acidic group selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, vinyl sulfonic acid, vinyl phosphonic acid or phosphorous acid monovinylester and phosphorous acid mono allylester.

37. (Previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 24, wherein unit b is at least one monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer comprising an acidic group selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, vinyl sulfonic acid, vinyl phosphonic acid or phosphorous acid monovinylester and phosphorous acid mono allylester.